

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 COA-02 CG-00 INT-08

ACDA-19 JUSE-00 IO-13 DOTE-00 AGR-20 SCI-06 AEC-11

FMC-04 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /197 W
----- 075264

R 131758Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 616

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

ALL AMCONSULS IN CANADA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0175

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: PREMIERS CONFERENCE IN CHARLOTTETOWN.

1. 14TH ANNUAL PREMIERS TWO DAY CONFERENCE ENDED FRIDAY AUGUST 10 IN CHARLOTTETOWN. (EARLIER TELEGRAPHIC REPORTING NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF CN STRIKE. CONFERENCE PRODUCED NO SURPRISED AND WAS APPARENTLY MORE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS THAN AGREEMENT ON GOALS.

2. IN STATEMENT ISSUED AT END OF CONFERENCE PREMIERS ADDRESSED THEMSELVES TO WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLS AND SAID THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN SEEKING "POSSIBLE RESTRAINING ACTION IN SIGNIFICANT CONSUMER-ORIENTED AREAS". PREMIER BARRETT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA IN STATEMENT OF HIS OWN SAID OTTAWA ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTROLS AND SHOULD MAKE ITS POSITION KNOWN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. "PUT SIMPLY THEY SHOULD EITHER PUT UP OR SHUT UP." SOME PREMIERS EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF IMPOSING WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLS NOW. BARRETT FELT THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN

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EFFECTIVE TWO YEARS AGO BUT IN PRESENT PERIOD OF FOOD

SCARCITY WOULD BE SELF-DEFEATING. HATFIELD OF NEW BRUNSWICK FELT ISSUE SO IMPORTANT THAT IT REQUIRED NON-PARTISAN SUPPORT ACROSS COUNTRY AND SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON RISING PRICES. DAVIS OF ONTARIO AND SHRIVER OF MANITOBA BOTH INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO GO ALONG WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN EFFORTS TO RESTRAIN PRICES. BOTH DAVID AND BARRETT DECRIED UNSCRUPULOUS ACTIONS OF SUPERMARKETS IN RAISING PRICES. PREMIER BOURASSA OF QUEBEC SAID WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLS HAD BEEN TRIED ELSEWHERE AND FOUND OF LITTLE BENEFIT. HE SAID INFLATIONARY TRENDS EXISTED ELSEWHERE AND OTTAWA COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO BEAR ENTIRE LOAD.

3. PREMIERS STATEMENT ALSO CALLED FOR UNILATERAL FEDERAL ACTION IF NECESSARY TO MANAGE CANADA'S OFFSHORE FISHERY RESOURCES IN AN AREA STRETCHING TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OR AN AREA THAT IS NOT LESS THAN 200 MILES OFF THE EAST AND WEST COASTS. IF NOT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT TO THIS AT LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE, CANADA SHOULD TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION. PREMIERS URGED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SET UP ADEQUATE SYSTEM OF SEA AND AIR SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL PROCEDURES TO CONSERVE FISH RESOURCES. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT CANADA NOT ASSERTING SOLE FISHING RIGHTS WITHIN 200 MILES LIMIT BUT ONLY THAT MACHINERY SHOULD BE SET UP TO PROTECT RESOURCES IN FUTURE.

4. PREMIER REGAN OF NOVA SCOTIA AND DAVID HELD "VERY PRELIMINARY TALKS" AND WILL MEET AGAIN SHORTLY TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF ONTARIO GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN HEAVY WATER AND COAL PRODUCTION IN NOVA SCOTIA (ONE OF NOVA SCOTIA'S HEAVY WATER PLANTS IS BEING REBUILT AND OTHER HAS HAD PRODUCTION DIFFICULTIES).

5. APPARENTLY IN CONCILIATORY EFFORT PREMIER REGAN SAID HE AND HATFIELD AND MOORES (NEWFOUNDLAND) DID NOT FIND QUEBEC'S PROPOSALS FOR DEEPWATER TERMINAL ON ST. LAWRENCE WOULD BE CONTRADICTORY TO ATLANTIC CANADA'S EFFORTS IN FIELD. HATFIELD HIMSELF MORE CAUTIOUS AND SAID HE WOULD NEED TO STUDY PROPOSAL BEFORE DETERMINING IF THERE WOULD BE COMPETITION BETWEEN QUEBEC AND NEW BRUNSWICH IN DEEPWATER PORTS (AND BY UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPLICATION WHETHER IN FACE OF COMPETITION BOTH WOULD BE VIABLE).

6. PREMIER BLAKENEY (SASKATCHEWAN) URGED ATLANTIC PROVINCE PREMIERS TO PRESS OTTAWA FOR REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES CONFERENCE SIMILAR TO FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL TALKS IN CALGARY LAST MONTH. HOWEVER, ATLANTIC PREMIERS SHIEF AWAY FROM SUGGESTION AS NOT SUITED TO NEEDS OF ATLANTIC PROVINCES. THEY AGREED

WITH BLANENEY, HOWEVER, THAT OTTAWA MUST "COORDINATE ITS PROGRAM
OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AS BETWEEN THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS"
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973HALIFA00175
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HALIFAX
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730842/aaaabeqo.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <03-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PREMIERS CONFERENCE IN CHARLOTTETOWN.
TAGS: PINT, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005